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Resource mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Statement submitted by the Friends Society in Social Service, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* E/2004/100.

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Following the invitation of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) to leading NGOs to achieve concrete results towards the Millennium Development Goal's implementation in partnership with the United Nations, Friends' Society in Social Service (FSSS), Calcutta has established a networking partnership among some like-minded NGOs/ Civil Societies and Governmental Bodies and conducting workshop and seminars on regular basis at Calcutta for more than a years. With the support of the Senior Inter-Regional Adviser and UN –NGO-IRENE Coordinator, NGO Section/ ECOSOC of UN-DESA a capacity building workshop was held in Calcutta during October 2003 to strengthen local NGO capacities and enhance their contribution to the ECOSOC work through exchange of innovative and result-oriented experiences.

The out-come of the workshop was the development of strong and committed networking partnership with well-defined and planned activities to contribute to the preparatory work for the High Level Segment of the ECOSOC of June 2004; FSSS organized and hosted a regional workshop in Calcutta on 2nd March 2004. The Regional Networking Partners from LDCs like, Bangladesh and the Convener of UN-NGO IRENE/ India were among the participants.

The proposals, recommendations and conclusions that FSSS was asked by the participants to present to the HLS of ECOSOC, were the result of a base level survey undertaken by FSSS as well as its discussions with the said networking partners during the whole year. The participants concluded that their contribution will focus on one major goal, i.e., "Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger". They also underlined on "Concrete Action for Population is emphasized with grass-root people's interventions".

A project document on a pilot comprehensive program on "Integrated Rural Development for poverty eradication in least developed areas and countries of South Asia" has been formulated with the support of UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator of UN-DESA. The said project ultimately emerges on to the MDGs in partnership with the United Nations/ ECOSOC and other interested stakeholders.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION

- That FSSS with associate partners will address Millennium Development Goal "Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger" with structural interventions emphasizing resource mobilization and creating enabling environment of networking for cooperation at local, national, regional and global levels.

- That FSSS explores opportunities to identify and select stakeholders in South Asian Region namely, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, (LDCs) & LDAs of Eastern India i.e., Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Tripura, & West Bengal.

- That FSSS shall strive for an effective mechanisms; technical cooperation; support and guidance from UN-DESA and formulate a "joint plan of action" to ensure a positive out-come to address the targeted goal within a time frame.

- That based on a participatory approach and to reach to the targeted goal, FSSS has designed and formulated a comprehensive project proposal to submit UN-DESA and as soon as possible, willing to implement this project in partnership with the United Nations.